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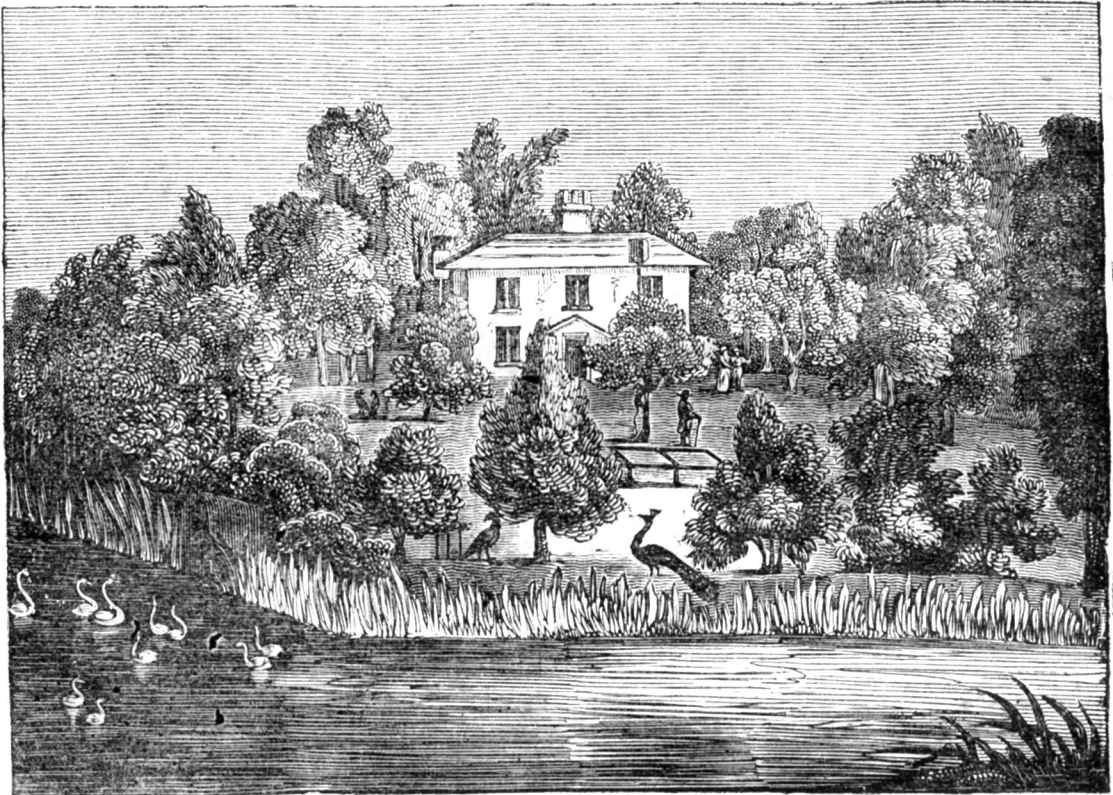
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been found to exist as to the mode of obtaining the sanction of his Majesty's government to such an appropriation of a part of the royal park. Owing to the active exertions and influence of Mr. Crampton, the surgeon-general, all obstacles to obtaining possession of the ground by the Society were removed, and the Gardens were opened to the public in August, 1831; stocked with a collection of animals most of which were presents from the Zoological Society of London. Ever since the collection of the Zoological Society of Dublin has increased, and prospered, to an extent exceeding the most sanguine expectations of its original promoters.

The grounds occupied by these gardens stretch along the northern margin of the first lake we meet on entering the park from the city. The gardens rise from the margin of the lake by a gentle acclivity, which exposes them to a S.S.W.

aspect. They have lately been extended by the inclosure of an additional portion of the park on their northern boundary; several commodious and ornamental buildings have been erected to accommodate the specimens which the Society have acquired by donation or purchase, in addition to their original stock. For some of the most valuable specimens which they at present possess, they are indebted to the munificence of his present Majesty. We understand that the collection contains at present upwards of two hundred animals, there being eighty mammalia, one hundred and thirty-six birds, and five reptiles. The lake which bounds the gardens on the S. W. contains eels, *anguilla vulgaris*; perch, *perca fluviatilis*; and roach, *cyprinus rutilus*. The water-hen, *gallinula chloropus*, in the wild state, breeds annually on its shores.



Engraved by Clayton.

SOUTH-WEST VIEW OF THE ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS.

These gardens are within the distance of a pleasant walk, and occupy a plot of ground which nature has been bounteous in embellishing, by varying the surface with hill and valley; ornamenting it with wood and water; and placing it in an aspect which commands a grand and picturesque view of distant mountain scenery. In this delightful spot, possessing natural advantages which the wealth of London, or the munificence of the French government could not purchase, animals from every quarter of the globe are brought together, and presented to the study of the zoologist; and so genial is our mild climate to their several constitutions, that there is not a collection in Europe in which the animals generally are in such fine condition, or in which the proportion of deaths is so small; circumstances highly creditable to the care and skill of the superintendent, R. Drewitt.

"FRIENDSHIP'S OFFERING."

Having in our last and preceding numbers introduced the "Forget Me Not," and "Comic Annual," to the notice of our readers; in pursuance of our promised intention, we now present to their kind attention, the beautiful little volume entitled "Friendship's Offering,"

—which, besides its full quota of the usual embellishments, designed and executed in the first rate style of elegance and taste, possesses real intrinsic excellence: inasmuch as several of the tales and stories which are given, are from the pen of the first rate authors of the day, and are really of the first rate class of writing. The stories most to our liking in this volume are, "The Ball Room," "Grace Kennedy," "Donna Francesca," and the two stories which we have selected as a fair specimen of the volume; the first of which, "Ill got—Ill gone," is an Irish sketch, by our highly talented countryman, Mr. John Banim, which we give in our present number. Of the other, "The Lad of Genius," we shall have occasion to speak more at length in our next—but our space is brief—we shall, therefore, at once introduce Mr. Banim in his story of—

ILL GOT, ILL GONE.

"Well—it's my turn, now, sure enough, genteels, to tell my story; and it will be most about how old Square (Squire) M'Cass come by the great fort'n, that he couldn't keep with as strong a hand as he got it—Ill got, ill gone, ye know neighbours." In these words, one of a circle of Irish villagers, assembled round a winter-fire, and beguiling the long holiday evening with their favorite amuse-